

■ A restraining order can . . .

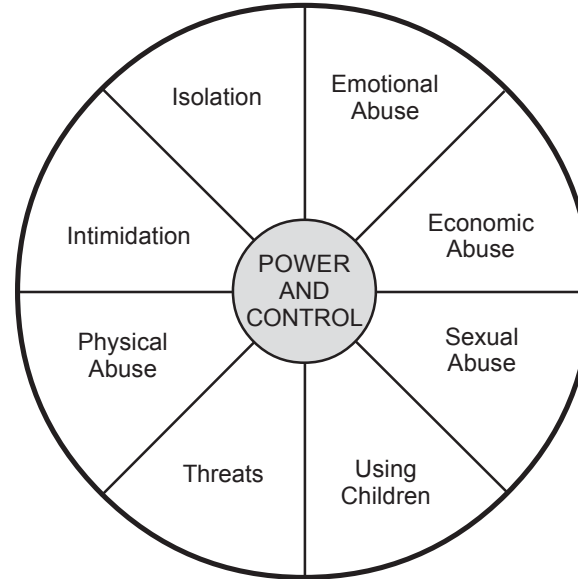
- Be obtained for either domestic abuse or harassment.
- Order your partner to have no contact with you or to have no violent contact with you.
- Give the police a chance to make an arrest if the order is violated.
- Be used any place in Wisconsin.
- Be valid for up to 4 years.
- Be obtained in the Probate Office, Room 1005, Dane County Courthouse.
- Be obtained free of charge.
- The Domestic Abuse Restraining Order is free of charge. There may be a fee for a Harassment Restraining Order.

If you would like assistance in filing a restraining order, you can contact a legal advocate at 251-1237.

■ Where to turn for help . . .

- District Attorney/Domestic Violence Program: 266-9003.
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
251-4445. (24-Hour Helpline)
1-800-747-4045 (Toll Free)
Legal Advocacy: 251-1237
- Family Services – Alternatives to Aggression: 252-1325
 - ~ abusers' treatment
 - ~ women's and children's therapy
- Midwest Domestic Violence Resource Center: 231-3300
 - ~ abusers' treatment
 - ~ services for victims and children
- Respite Center: 244-5700
 - ~ short-term childcare for parents under stress or in crisis
- Rainbow Project: 255-7356
 - ~ counseling for children
- Dane County Crisis Intervention: 231-2345
 - ~ suicide intervention

This chart shows some of the tactics physically violent persons use to gain power and control over others.

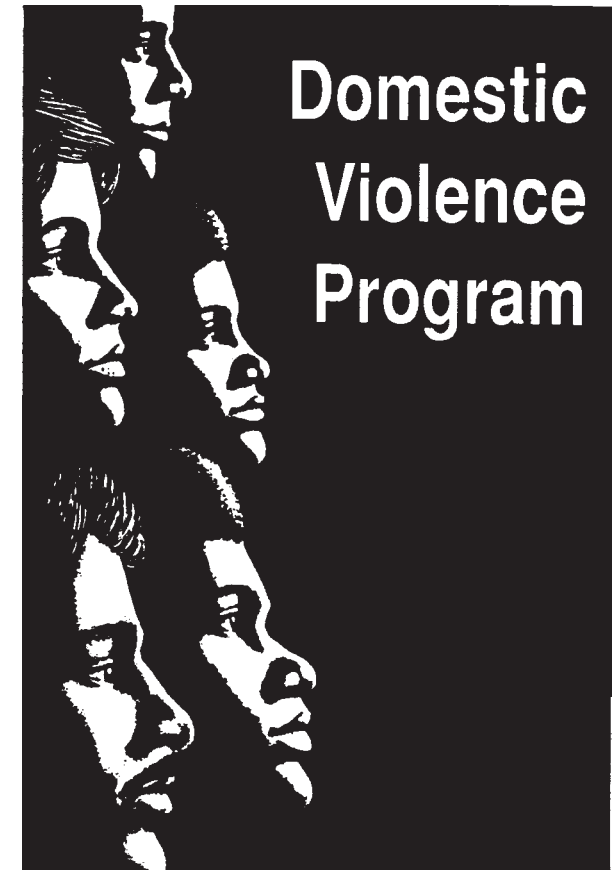


■ Has your partner ever . . .

- Pushed, slapped, grabbed, choked or kicked you?
- Smashed or thrown things?
- Made you afraid just by looking at you?
- Driven recklessly to scare you?
- Put you down, humiliated you or called you names?
- Made threats to hurt you?
- Forced you to have sexual contact even though you didn't want to?
- Told you the abuse was your fault?

If these things are happening in your relationship, we may be able to help!

Dane County
District Attorney's Office



266-9003

DANE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
215 South Hamilton St., Room 3000
Madison, WI 53703-3299



■ What happens if the police are called?

Because Wisconsin has a mandatory arrest law, your partner* will be arrested if the responding officer believes that a crime has been committed (battery, disorderly conduct, etc.). An arrest will occur even if you did not contact the police or if you do not want the arrest to occur.

*"Partner" is used to refer to anyone who is arrested in a family/roommate dispute.

■ What happens after my partner has been arrested?

He/She will be taken to jail. The police officer(s) should explain release/bail procedures and details of a 72-hour no contact condition to you.

Charges will be referred to the District Attorney's office for review. Final charges may not be the same as the arrest charge(s).

■ When will my partner go to court?

If your partner does not bail out of jail, an initial appearance will generally occur the following afternoon. In Dane County, initial appearances are held in Room 1162-2 of the Public Safety Building, 115 W. Doty St., Madison. Bail and conditions of bail are set at the initial appearance. Conditions of bail often include a no contact order. Your partner will also be given notice of his/her next court date.

■ What is a no contact order?

As a condition of bail, a no contact order means that your partner can have no contact with you while the case is pending. No contact means that your partner cannot see you, write to you, call you, or leave messages for you. You may also wish to obtain a restraining order (see back panel).

■ Can I have the charges dropped?

As the victim of a domestic violence offense you are not responsible for pressing charges, the State is. Therefore, you cannot have the charges dropped. However, you are encouraged to contact a Domestic Violence Specialist in the District Attorney's office to have your feelings heard.

■ What will happen? Will my partner go to jail?

The consequences of domestic violence offenses depend on many things – your partner's criminal history, the seriousness of the offense, your partner's attitude about the offense and your feelings about the case. Often consequences include treatment, such as treatment for violence or treatment for alcohol/drug abuse.

If your partner has been arrested for a domestic offense you are encouraged to contact a Domestic Violence Specialist to communicate your opinion about what consequences would be most helpful to you. Your opinions are taken very seriously, and the outcome of the case may be affected by your response.

■ What does a Domestic Violence Specialist do?

Domestic Violence Specialists can assist you in a number of ways. They can provide you with an opportunity to voice your needs and concerns regarding the case. They can inform you of decisions made by the District Attorney's office and can answer any questions you may have about the legal system. You can contact a specialist by calling 266-9003.